



**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

# Social Justice and Social Security Committee

**Thursday 11 May 2023**

**Session 6**



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2023, Session 6**

**CONVENER**

\*Collette Stevenson (East Kilbride) (SNP)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

\*Gordon MacDonald (Edinburgh Pentlands) (SNP)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Con)

\*Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Con)

Katy Clark (West Scotland) (Lab)

\*James Dornan (Glasgow Cathcart) (SNP)

\*Marie McNair (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP)

\*Paul O’Kane (West Scotland) (Lab)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Claire Menzies

**LOCATION**

The Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2)



## Scottish Parliament

### Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Thursday 11 May 2023

*[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:00]*

#### Decision on Taking Business in Private

**The Convener (Collette Stevenson):** I wish a very good morning to everyone, and I welcome you to the 12th meeting in 2023 of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee. We have received apologies from Katy Clark for today's meeting.

Our first item of business is a decision on whether to take agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6 in private. Do members agree to take those items in private?

**Members indicated agreement.**

## Subordinate Legislation

### Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment (No 2) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/113)

09:00

**The Convener:** Our next item of business is consideration of a negative Scottish statutory instrument. The instrument makes amendments to working age and pension age regulations as a result of the introduction of the Bereavement Benefits (Remedial) Order 2023 in February.

The 2023 order allows for cohabiting parents with dependent children who need support following the death of their partner to qualify for Department for Work and Pensions bereavement benefits. Previously, only bereaved parents who were married or in a civil partnership could qualify for those benefits. The order also allows retrospective claims to be paid as a lump sum in some circumstances, and it will prevent such a payment from affecting entitlement to or eligibility for a council tax reduction, which would normally be dependent on a person's capital.

The instrument is laid under the negative procedure, which means that its provisions will come into force unless the Parliament agrees to a motion to annul it. No motion to annul the instrument has been lodged.

As members have no comments to make on the instrument, I invite the committee to agree that it does not wish to make any recommendations in relation to the regulations. Do members agree to note the instrument?

**Members indicated agreement.**

**The Convener:** That concludes our public business for today.

09:02

*Meeting continued in private until 10:01.*



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